

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 14-16 are pending in the present application. By this Reply, claim 7 has been amended, claim 6 has been cancelled and claims 14-16 have been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider her rejections in view of the Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over CN 2031615 in view of Tani et al. (U.S. 6,457,475). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it is respectfully pointed out that claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been rendered moot with regard to this claim.

With regard to independent claim 7, this claim is directed to a cigarette filter, wherein "a mixture of activated charcoal and silica/alumina is loaded in a space between the two filter materials or is dispersed in one of the filter materials." In addition claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein a total amount of the mixture of activated charcoal and silica/alumina is set to 30 mg to 120 mg." Applicants respectfully submit that the Tani et al. reference relied on by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 7.

It should be noted that claim 7 corresponds to Figure 5 of the present application and the numerical limitation in claim 7 is supported by the description in the present specification at page 5, lines 16-20.

Tani et al. does not disclose the numerical limitation in independent claims 7. Moreover, Tani et al. does not suggest the effect of the present invention. Specifically, regarding the removal of pyrazines and phenols contained in mainstream smoke, a synergetic effect can be produced by using the activated charcoal and silica/alumina of the present application. This synergistic effect can be understood from a review of page 10, Table 1 of the present application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 clearly defines the present invention over the Tani et al. reference relied on by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are therefore respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 14-16 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 is allowable for the same reasons mentioned above with regard to independent claim 7, and dependent claims 14 and 16 are allowable due to their respective dependence on independent claims 7 and 14, as well as due to the additional recitations in these claims.

It should be noted that claim 15 corresponds to Figure 1 of the present application and the numerical limitation in claim 15 is supported by the description in the present

specification at page 5, lines 16-20. Claims 14 and 16 are supported by the descriptions in the specification at page 6, lines 17-22, and page 10, Table 1.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 14-16 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen at (703) 208-4030 (direct line) in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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